

# TOWN OF SOUTHBURY

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**TO:** Members of the Committee on Environment

**FROM:** H. William Davis, Jr.  
First Selectman Southbury 

**DATE:** March 12, 2009

**SUBJECT:** **SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL NO. 1082**

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The town of Southbury is committed to the preservation of open space. Southbury's 2002 Plan of Conservation and Development reveals that in 2001 a town-wide survey was conducted by the Planning Commission indicating that 83% of the respondents agreed that the town should do more to preserve open space both for the town and the state. In 1997 the town of Southbury set a long-range goal to preserve 20% of its land over a 15-year period as permanent open space.

Southbury's goal is inline with the State's goal of protecting 130,000 acres of Connecticut's agricultural land. To date only an estimated 32,000 acres have been preserved at a significant cost to the tax payers of Connecticut. This bill suggests a way to permanently protect farmland at little to no cost.

Currently, the state owns an estimated 1,300 acres at the Southbury Training School ("STS") of unprotected farmland. Albeit the State's Farmland Preservation Program continues to be a worthy initiative, a study enumerating steps necessary to preserving such farmland is long overdue.

I appreciate the opportunity as the First Selectman of Southbury to support this noteworthy Bill. Thank you.